

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 27, 1998 LB 1112, 1354

and I will vote for this motion to place the bill on General File. I think we have long neglected the mentally ill, I think they are among those suffering groups in this state that have not received adequate attention by this Legislature and by the state of Nebraska to meet, I think, their legitimate needs. That's not to say that we've totally ignored them, we have made progress. We have tried to do what we can, but I think they still struggle. And I think we are like 49th in this country as to the support we give to our community-based mental health services. So I am one, though, who also acknowledges the reality of the situation, and Senator Tyson and I and Senator Bohlke have introduced a bill, 1354, to deal with the regional centers and their role in the mental health system. The committee yesterday worked to put that bill together and we advanced the bill that will be brought to the floor as a committee priority bill. And what it will attempt to do is address the public mental health role and its overall mental health system, and it will include a study that was suggested by Senator Tyson to bring together the private sector, the public sector, and various providers and consumers to try to address this issue,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...to give it the attention it needs. And so what we are going to try to do is maintain the public health infrastructure, try to look at the public-private role in the future, and to try to bring this issue to a head and make progress on it. There's not enough time to go into it, other than to say I think with people like Senator Robak, Senator Tyson and others, who have expressed an interest in the mentally ill and mental health services, we need to keep the pressure on and keep making progress. So I commend you and acknowledge your good work. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Before we proceed to the next speaker, Senator Coordsen announces that he has the following guests visiting the Legislature this morning, they are Al, Renae, and Chet Henry of Daykin, Nebraska. They're underneath the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Senator Landis.